GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3521
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2015
Literacy Data
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of the Government on the NSS survey conducted between January-July 2014 which revealed that 11% of rural and 6% of urban people under 30 never went to schools and 33% of the same group in rural and 38% in urban areas dropped from schools;
(b) the details of the other findings of the said survey;
(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the situation; and
(d) whether there is a tool to qualitatively measure the learning outcomes of the students in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b) As per NSS 71st round report January-June 2014, the proportion of never enrolled persons (aged 5 to 29 years) in rural and urban areas respectively was 10.9% and 5.6% respectively. This is an improvement from the corresponding figures of 15.8% and 8.0% pertaining to the year 2007-08. Similarly, as per the survey, the proportion of persons of age 5-29 dropping out or discontinuing education in rural and urban areas was 32.6% and 38.3% respectively as compared to the figures of 32.7% and 39.0% pertaining to 2007-08. The survey also found that the proportion of never enrolled persons fell from 16 % in poorest quintile class to 6 % in richest quintile class in rural India. In urban India too the percentage dropped from 12 per cent to 1 per cent from the bottom to the top quintile classes of Usual Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (UMPCE).
(c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is one of India's important social sector programmes for universalisation of elementary education. SSA was launched in 2000-2001 with its goal to include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in elementary education, and achieving significant enhancement in learning levels of children. SSA is now the

primary vehicle for implementing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE).
SSA programmes provide for a multi-pronged approach to check drop out amongst children inter-alia through enhancing access to primary, upper primary, strengthening school infrastructure like school building, additional classrooms, toilets, drinking water facilities, etc. improving teacher-pupil ratio, strategies for gender positive textbooks, gender sensitization of teachers and educational administrators. The mid-day meal programme is also implemented in elementary schools, to help retain children in schools.
Since, the inception of SSA in 2000-01 till 30.9.2015, opening of 3.64 lakh new elementary schools, construction of 3.11 lakh school buildings, and 18.61 lakh additional classrooms, 2.38 lakh drinking water facilities, 10.14 lakh school toilets, 19.48 lakh teacher posts, 8.53 crore (Annual) supply of free textbooks, have been sanctioned to States and UTs. Two sets of uniforms for all girls, and children belonging to SC/ST/BPL families in Government schools are provided under SSA scheme. As per the provisions of RTE Act, every child in the age group of 6 to 14 is expected to be in school. In 2013-14, the gross enrollment ratio in the elementary stage has been 96.5%,. The number of out of school children has considerably reduced and is estimated to be 60.64 lakh during 2014, as per independent survey commissioned by the Ministry.
The Rashtriya Madyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Scheme was launched with one of the objectives to reduce drop out of students at secondary stage. The scheme provides for improving access by approving new secondary school and by provisioning for additional class rooms, science laboratory, library, computer room, art/craft/culture room, toilets, drinking water facilities etc. in new secondary schools and existing secondary schools, to reduce drop out. Interventions like survey and identification of out of school children, awareness programme, bridge courses, special teaching for learning enhancement etc. have also been supported under RMSA to address issue relating to dropout.
Under RMSA till date 11,599 new secondary schools and 52715 additional Class Rooms, 25948 Science Lab, 21864 Computer Room, 27428 Library, 66441 Toilet Blocks, 12327 drinking water etc. facilities have been sanctioned. In addition, 115554 teacher posts have also been approved.
(d) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts National Achievement Survey (NAS) to assess learning achievement of children for classes III, V & VIII in Government and Government-Aided Schools across all States. Three rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT. NAS is a sample based survey,
designed to check the health of the educational system and provide information about the learning achievement of students. In this survey, standardized tests and questionnaires (School, Pupil and Teacher) are used to get learning achievement data and background information. The survey for Class III students assesses students learning levels in Language and Maths; class V for Language, Maths and EVS; class VIII for Language, Maths, Science and Social Science. These test forms are common for the States and these are translated in different languages for different States.
The National Achievement Survey at secondary classes (Class X) is a curriculum based survey in which achievement of students in 5 curricular areas namely English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and one Modern Indian Language (MIL) is assessed on the contents prescribed in these subject areas. It is not based on learning outcomes for secondary classes as these are yet to be

identified for secondary classes. The National Achievement Survey is conducted throughout the country on a sample basis.
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